

# *Plain Talks*

GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY

MAY, 1966



## A Sharper Knife Needed?

**P**RESIDENT JOHNSON should be applauded for calling on Cabinet members to cut spending \$1 billion this quarter to fight inflation, but he could, and perhaps should, take further steps in this direction.

For Federal spending is soaring. In the first six months of 1966 alone, it was scheduled to rise more than \$12.5 billion, with much of the increase not for the war in Viet Nam but for swollen Great Society programs.

The Chamber of Commerce of the United States has carefully studied the budget. Its analysis shows 51 places where the budget can be cut several billion dollars, without hurting the war effort or essential Government services.

The alternative to spending cuts is tax increases. Increases not only would have the drastic effect of reducing incomes but could come too late to do the job for which designed.

## Customers Prefer Electric Living

**T**HE PUBLIC IN GENERAL is electric-minded and the gas industry received a jolt from a recent public opinion survey that showed how much ground they've lost to Reddy Kilowatt.

The American Gas Association has sounded the alarm, noting that gas "has its work cut out" if it wants to keep its markets. The survey showed gas behind the electric industry and the telephone business in the customer's minds in progressiveness, future

outlook, growth and ability to get its messages across. Briefly, AGA's survey found 65 per cent saying electricity costs are reasonable, 62 per cent saying the same for gas. Only 27 per cent thought electricity too expensive—and 30 per cent said gas cost too much.

Range preferences were 52 per cent for electric, 43 per cent for gas. An amazing 65 per cent had never heard of gas air conditioning. Customers thought gas appliances inexpensive to operate but still preferred electric: 53 per cent said electric appliances are modern against 14 per cent for gas. On cleanliness—electricity 87 per cent, gas 33 per cent. Conveniences—electricity 77 per cent, gas 54 per cent. Attractiveness—electricity 60 per cent, gas 35 per cent. Forty-three per cent thought electric appliances safer and a small five per cent thought gas safer. On heating, the survey asked what would be preferred if cost were no object. Electricity scored top preference with 45 per cent, gas was chosen by 38 per cent.

## Administration Introduces REA Bank Bill

**H**OUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE Chairman Harold D. Cooley (D-N.C.) introduced on May 3 the administration's bill to establish a REA electric bank for supplemental financing of the electrification program. He said that hearings would be held "at the earliest possible date." Meanwhile, the NRECA placed a large advertisement in the May 8 edition of the Washington Post urging Congress to pass the bill.

## OUR COVER

**W**HIRLYBIRD AT WORK. A helicopter has been called in to help overcome an obstacle—the Atchafalaya River basin swamp—as work continues on the 158 miles of extra high voltage (500,000 volts) line crossing our service area. The helicopter is being used to carry insulators into the swamp where crews will install them on the massive steel towers. The helicopter will also be used to string the giant cables across the water covered river basin. When completed the EHV system will connect our service area with electric systems in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Tennessee for the seasonal exchange of off-peak electricity. Electric companies in the southern half of the area involved experience peak loads in summer months because of air conditioning demands while northern firms face maximum needs in the winter for heating purposes. The exchange is expected to hold down the expense of constructing additional generating capacity and will allow companies to help each other during emergencies. Our segment of the line will cost in excess of \$10 million. Construction is going ahead at a fast clip on the massive towers, imposing structures ranging in height from 125 feet to 175 feet and sitting 1,200 feet apart. The two Mississippi River crossing towers will be the tallest along the Gulf Coast. They will stand 490 feet tall. Our portion of the network will be completed by the summer of 1967.



Member of Southeast Texas Industrial Editors and International Council of Industrial Editors.





ANNUAL MEETING. Some 300 area shareholders heard Chairman Richard review our 1965 operations and outline what our 1966 operations will cost at the annual share-

holders meeting on May 11 in the 20th floor auditorium of the General Offices at Beaumont. Following Mr. Richard's talk a shareholder stands to ask a question.

## Shareholders Re-Elect Directors At Annual Meeting

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING of shareholders of our Company on May 11 in the General Offices, Beaumont, Chairman Richard reviewed our 1965 operations and discussed the role our Company plays in the economic development of southeast Texas and south central Louisiana.

Prior to the meeting the directors voted quarterly common dividends of 20 cents per share, payable June 15, up two cents per quarter over the previous rate. This was the seventh dividend increase in the past ten years.

In 1965 common stock earnings increased 12 cents a share to a new high of \$1.01, 13½ per cent over 1964. Common stock split two-for-one last May and dividends of 71 cents per share were paid in 1964 on the split shares compared to 62 cents in 1964.

Commenting on our Company's construction plans, Mr. Richard said the largest expenditure in 1966 will be for building the company's 148-mile portion of the extra high voltage (500,000-volt) system that will tie in with other electric power systems in neighboring states, for operation in 1967.

Within the five-year period, 1966 through 1970,

our construction program calls for an estimated investment of about \$300 million. Of this, work planned for 1966 will require \$53 million, the second largest expenditure in our history. By 1970, our Company will have added 1,600,000 kilowatts of generating capacity, more than the total load three years ago.

Shareholders re-elected all incumbent directors: John J. Morrison, Benjamin D. Orgain, Mr. Richard, Lewis M. Welch and Eldon A. Werner of Beaumont; Henry C. LeVois and Harrell R. Smith of Lake Charles; Charles P. Manship, Jr., Floyd R. Smith and Richard O. Wheeler of Baton Rouge; Fred V. Wilson of Port Arthur; Monroe J. Rathbone of Summit, New Jersey; and Edwin W. Hiam of Boston.

In other action, the shareholders approved the designation by the board of Lybrand, Ross Bros. & Montgomery as the firm of independent public accountants to audit the books of the company for 1966.

Some 300 Texas and western Louisiana service area shareholders attended the Beaumont meeting and another 400 shareholders attended an informational meeting in Baton Rouge on May 18.





**ELECTED CHURCH POINT COUNCILMAN.** Harold Beagh, center, residential sales representative in the Church Point office, is congratulated by Charles Gary, sales supervisor, Lafayette District, and Rufus Mier, commercial sales representative, Lafayette, after being sworn in as Church Point town councilman by Clerk of Court F. L. "Pete" Landry, second from left. Mr. Beagh was

first appointed to fill a vacancy on the council on March 24 by Gov. John J. McKeithen. At the right is Senator Howard A. "Boochie" Duncan who made the recommendation of Mr. Beagh's appointment. Mr. Beagh was elected to a four-year term on April 9. (Photo courtesy of the Church Point News.)

## Our GSU Town Council Members

**D**OWN IN THE ACADIAN country around Lafayette there is a group of Gulf Staters who are taking their local politics serious and are doing something about it.

Three Lafayette District employees along with the husband of one and the fathers of two others serve on the councils of four area towns.

Paul Broussard, a lineman first class in the Lafayette T&D, recently began serving his second full four-year term as mayor of Scott. In all Mr. Broussard has served the town of Scott for eight years. He was elected an alderman in 1958 and after three years was appointed mayor

for one year. He was then elected to his first full term as mayor.

Serving on the Scott town council with Mr. Broussard is Numa Richard, father of Melanie Richard, PBX operator in the Lafayette office.

Mr. Broussard has been employed by our Company at Lafayette for 20 years. In addition to being mayor of Scott he also serves on the board of directors of the Lafayette Parish Civil Defense and is a member of the Scott Volunteer Fire Department and is a member of the VFD board of directors. Mr. Broussard is married and has three children, June Ann, Mary Margret and Bruce Alcee.



On March 24, Harold "Slim" Beaugh, sales representative at Church Point, was appointed by Gov. John J. McKeithen to fill an unexpired term on the town council. On April 9, Mr. Beaugh was elected to a four-year term as a councilman.

Mr. Beaugh has been with our Company 19 years. He was district serviceman at Church Point before being appointed residential sales representative last year. He served in various line positions at Lafayette before being transferred to Church Point in 1953.

Mr. Beaugh is married and has a son, John Harold, Jr., and two daughters, Vicki Lynn and Suzanne. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, Little League Booster, Quarterback Club, and the American Legion.

Lester Gauthier, a senior engineering assistant in the Lafayette T & D, has been elected to a first term as an alderman on the town council of Maurice.

Mr. Gauthier has been with our Company since 1946. He was employed at Lafayette as a helper in T&D.

He is married and has seven children, Lester, Jr., Janice, Angelia, Martin, Olivia, Gordon, and Steven. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and raises nursery stock in his spare time.

Serving as mayor of Maurice is Corbett A. LeBlanc, Sr., father of Corbett A. LeBlanc, Jr., a storeroom assistant in the Lafayette Treasury.

The GSU husband serving on a town council is Lucas Denais who was recently elected to his first term as alderman at Youngsville. He is the hus-



**GSU HUSBAND ELECTED ALDERMAN.** Lucas Denais, husband of Bobbie Denais, bookkeeper in the Lafayette office, has been elected an alderman on the council of the town of Youngsville. This is Mr. Denais' first venture in politics. He is employed by Southern Bell Telephone Company in Lafayette. Here Mr. and Mrs. Denais take it easy in their home in Youngsville.

band of Bobbie Denais, bookkeeper in the Lafayette office.

Mrs. Denais has been with our Company for eight years. The Denaises have a son, Stacy, and a daughter, Christina.

Mr. Denais is employed by Southern Bell Telephone Company at Lafayette as a switchman. He is a member of the Youngsville Lions Club where he is the Tailtwister.

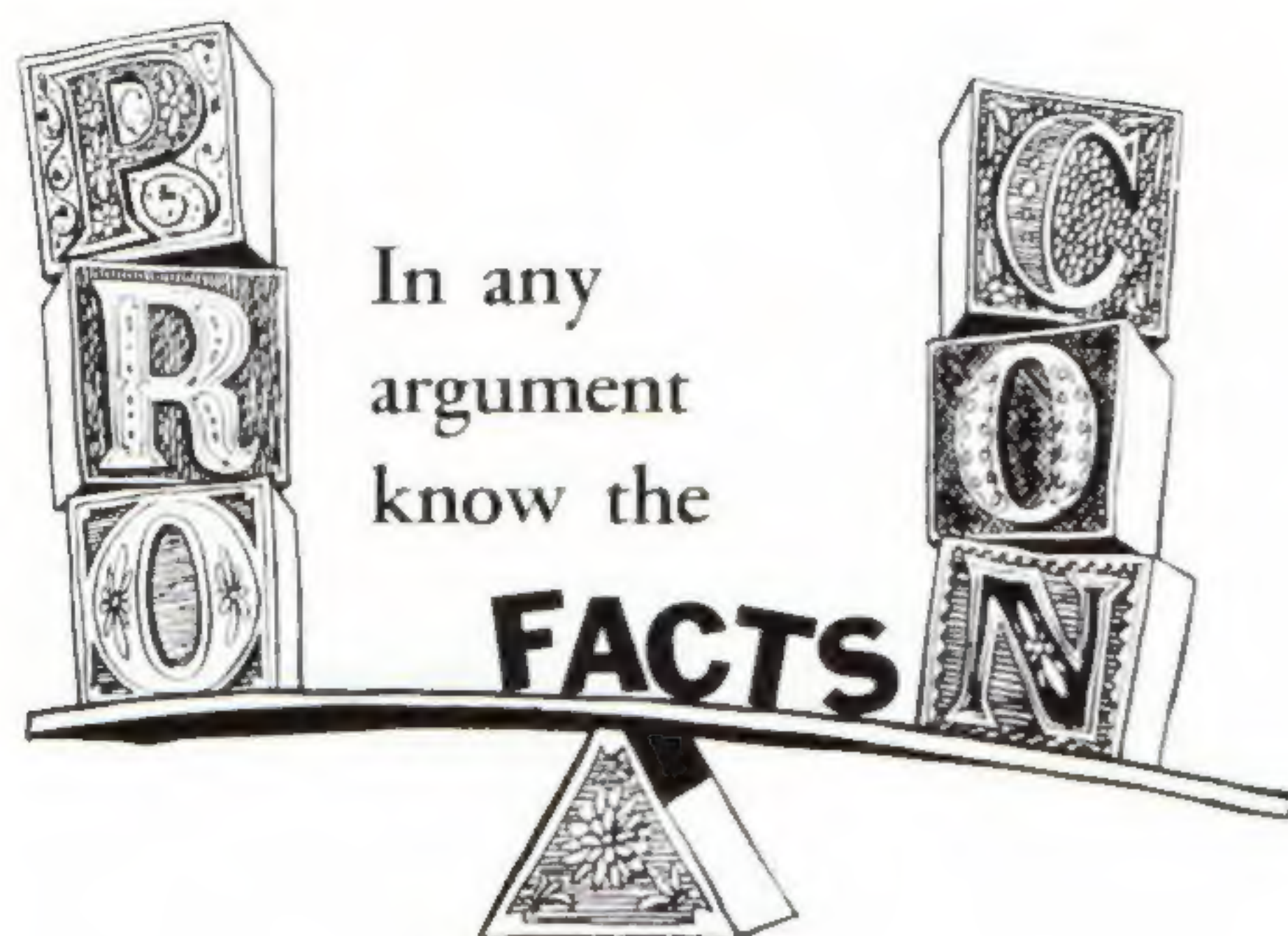


**ALDERMAN AT MAURICE.** Lester Gauthier, senior engineering assistant, Lafayette T&D, is about to enter the office of the village of Maurice where he will serve his first term as alderman. Corbett LeBlanc, Sr., father of Corbett LeBlanc, Jr., storeroom assistant, Lafayette Treasury, also serves as a Maurice alderman.



**THE MAYOR AT WORK.** Paul Broussard, a lineman first class in Lafayette T&D and mayor of Scott, Louisiana, answers the phone as he and City Clerk Thelma Gerard go over some records when he recently went by City Hall after getting off work. Mr. Broussard has served five years as mayor of Scott and was recently re-elected his second four-year term. He was first appointed to serve a one-year term after having been an alderman for three years.





In any  
argument  
know the

**FACTS**

**I**N THE CONTROVERSY between the Louisiana investor-owned electric companies and the Rural Electrification Administration over the \$56.5 million loan to be used to build a super co-op generating and transmission system, the Louisiana rural electric co-ops have resorted to distorting the facts in the case in their publications and advertising in order to try to influence many otherwise well-informed Louisiana citizens.

The investor-owned companies have long argued that the super co-op G&T system will be duplications of existing facilities, of facilities under construction or future planned facilities.

PLAIN TALKS is continuing to provide you facts with which you can combat these distortions as they are presented.

*The super co-op says:* "Solid rural Louisiana citizens are behind the \$56-million REA loan for generation and transmission to enable the Electric Cooperatives to produce their own wholesale power not Federal bureaucrats as the companies claim."

*The facts:* This simply is not so. Rural citizens throughout Louisiana have vigorously opposed this waste of taxpayers' money when they have learned the facts involved. The secrecy surrounding the loan has prevented a fair analysis of the project, its costs and its purposes, even by some of the co-op board members and other co-op consumers. Most are not aware of the conditions of the contracts offered the co-ops by the investor-owned companies. Most are not aware of the cost of producing power by the super co-op or that the co-ops will be burdened with the \$56.5 million for 35 years.

The REA in Washington has actively encouraged the super co-op to press for increased loans to build up its distribution systems to serve more non-farm residences and businesses and to acquire

its own generating and transmission systems. The REA in Washington has promoted G&T loans so thoroughly that according to a statement in their annual report to the Secretary of Agriculture, construction work continued during 1964 on 18 generation and transmission projects for which REA has made previous loans. In the 3½ year period, January, 1961, to June, 1964, REA made G&T loans totaling more than \$536 million. This exceeds by far G&T loans approved for any similar period in the history of the REA program.

*The super co-op says:* "The farmers and businessmen serving their communities on the Co-op Boards of Directors simply want assurance of continued low electric rates and an abundance of power in rural Louisiana. They also desire security from monopolies dedicated to the destruction of any and all forms of competition . . . even by example."

*The facts:* The contracts offered by the investor-owned companies are \$366,758 less a year than what the super co-op claims it can supply the power requirements. Competent engineers have stated that the figure of 6.80 mills estimated by the REA Administrator in Washington cannot be attained. The actual cost will be more like 7.5 to 8.0 mills, which would be at least a 24 per cent increase, or \$703,570 over the rate offered by the utility companies. This rate for electric power by the investor-owned companies is among the very lowest in the nation. Both the Louisiana Public Service Commission and the Federal Power Commission regulate the rates of the investor-owned companies, assuring all consumers of adequate power at low cost.

*The super co-op says:* "Louisiana is the only state without an independent yardstick, Federal power, state-owned projects or co-op generation."

*The facts:* Numerous states are completely free from the burden of unfair competition of Federally financed, state-owned projects or co-op generation—such as Delaware, Indiana, Mississippi, Vermont, West Virginia, Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Hawaii. By the term "yardstick" the super co-op evidently intends to set itself up as the only competent judge to measure the "true cost" of generating and transmission of electric power. Why does the REA in Washington, by their repeated references to their "know-it-all" mythical "yardstick", with tax exemptions and various subsidies try to mislead the public by questioning the ability and integrity of the Louisiana Public Service Commission and the Federal Power Commission as well as the electric utility industry?





**HELPING KEEP TIME.** Joe Foreman, serviceman in the Hull District, works at restoring an antique clock in his backyard workshop. On the shelves behind Mr. Foreman are some of the clocks he has restored to perfect running time.

## Keeping Time Is a Hobby With Joe Foreman of Hull

**H**ELPING "FATHER TIME" keep time is a hobby with Joe Foreman, serviceman first class in the Hull, Texas, District.

"It all started about four years ago," Mr. Foreman said. "Over in Liberty we lived next door to a man who put old clocks in running order. I got interested and started working on antique clocks, too."

When he was transferred to Hull in 1961 he found a "goal mine" in antique clocks. In fact he got his hands on so many clocks that at one time he had 18 ticking away in his backyard workshop and around the house until his wife persuaded him to get rid of some of them.

He now has eleven clocks on shelves in his workshop — some run, some don't. He has one that he thinks he'll have to give up on and send it off to be fixed. It's a battery-operated, electric clock he got out of an old motor company in Hull. He said he hasn't been able to figure out all the

coils and springs in this one.

Most of the clocks he has picked up have cost him anywhere from \$2 to \$10. All of the clocks he has been able to get his hands on have been American-made key-wind ones. The oldest one he has owned was one he bought from an elderly lady in Hull. She said she had bought it in 1902 and it was second-hand then.

"I've been looking for some of the old German-made clocks that were wound by pulling weighted chains and a banjo-shaped wall clock. These are somewhat rare. I've found some, but they are expensive."

It takes Mr. Foreman about two days to clean a clock and put it in good running order.

"If they haven't been fooled with, most of them only need cleaning. Others need a few parts, but some need only a new spring. I clean them with a special rust preventive oil and after a clock is running I clean the woodcase and refinish it."

Clock-mending is not the only hobby Mr. Foreman has. He enjoys wild turkey hunting in Mississippi where he and his brother own a farm.

"I like to go down there. We're on a small river. I go hunting in the morning, catch catfish in the afternoon and set on the porch in the evening."

Mr. Foreman is also well-known around Hull for raising strawberries and each season his wife, Mary, sells some \$60 to \$70 in berries.

The Foremans have four children, Clarise, Crystal, Dale and Jodie. In addition to being a busy rural area serviceman and working at his clock repairing, yardwork and gardening, Mr. Foreman finds time to serve as a trustee for the Hull-Daisetta Independent School District which has just completed more than one million dollars in new buildings—a new high school located at Daisetta and a new elementary school at Hull. Both schools are all-electric and air conditioned.



# Personnel Changes Announced

## For System Services Sections

**I**N CONNECTION with the recent decentralization of the System Relay, Communications, Survey and Right-of-Way Sections, the following personnel changes have been made:

**C. J. Bonura**, formerly party chief in the Baton Rouge System Services, has been transferred to the Beaumont T&D - Engineering and promoted to supervisor of survey.



**C. J. Bonura**

He has been a System Engineering employee since 1936 and was a rod and chainman until he left for military service with the Army in 1942. Upon his return in 1945, he was assigned as an instrumentman.

He was promoted to party chief at Beaumont in 1948 and was transferred to Baton Rouge in 1957.

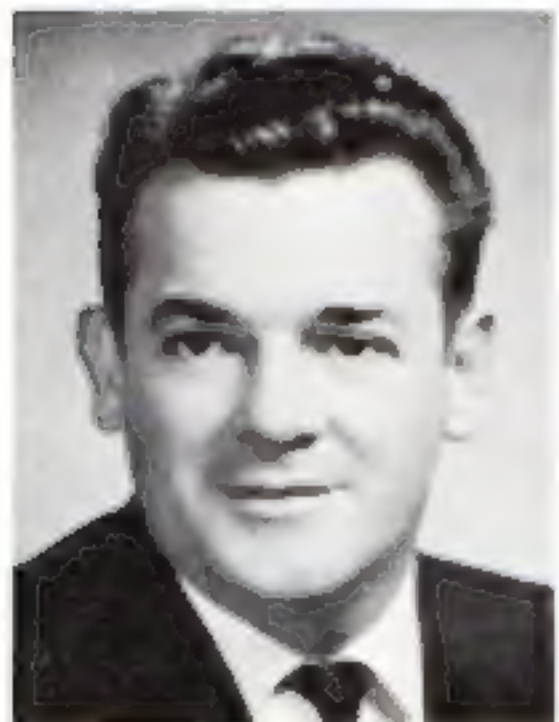
**L. P. Cammack**, formerly party chief in System Services at Beaumont, has been transferred to Beaumont T&D - Engineering as party chief in Survey.



**L. P. Cammack**

He joined our Company at Beaumont in 1947 as a rod and chainman. He was transferred to the Drafting Section in 1949 and was made a senior draftsman in 1952. He has been a party chief since 1958.

**Billie E. Harland**, a right-of-way man since 1963, has been transferred to the Beaumont T&D - Right - of - Way. He joined our Company in 1957 at Beaumont. He was an engineering assistant prior to being named right-of-way man.



**Bill Harland**

A native of Beau-

mont, he attended Beaumont schools and served in the U.S. Navy for three years. He is married to the former Lucy Cross of Westerly, R. I. They have five children, John, Billie, Dwight, Timothy and Llewellyn.

He is a member of the Vidor Evening Optimist Club, an assistant scoutmaster, a Mason, and a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Vidor where he is an elder, a member of the session, a trustee and an adult Sunday School teacher. He is a graduate of Beaumont's French High School and attended Baptist Bible College.



**Joe Chaney**

**Joseph F. Chaney**, a right-of-way man since 1961, has been transferred to the Beaumont T&D - Right - of - Way. He was employed as an engineering helper at Beaumont in 1955.



**Frank Weaver**

**Frank H. Weaver**, a right-of-way man since 1964, was employed as an engineering helper in 1959 in System Survey. He was transferred to the Right-of-Way Section as an engineering assistant in 1960.

A native of Port Arthur, he attended Lamar Tech after serving three years in the Army. He is married to the former Shirley Johnson, a former employee in Beaumont Customer Accounts. They are members of the First Presbyterian Church of Vidor.

The following system personnel have been transferred to Beaumont T & D-Relay and Communications:

**H. R. Leicht**, formerly relay foreman in System Services, has been promoted to supervisor of relaying and communications for Beaumont T&D.



**Harry Leicht**

Mr. Leicht was employed in 1939 as a groundman in Beaumont T & D. He was moved to the Meter Department in 1941. He



**PRESENT GE-GSU PIPELINE PROGRAM.** Malcolm Williams, center, industrial engineer, Lafayette, and two General Electric engineers, C. E. Watson, left, Houston, and W. J. Shields, right, Midland, presented a program on lease and pipeline automation to some 70 Lafayette area production and pipeline engineers last month. Our Company was host for the meeting and it was presented according to Mr. Williams to meet the increased interest and requests for information on automation.



went into System Engineering in 1946 as a relayman. He had been relay foreman since 1956.

He is married to the former Marie Spence of Jacksonville, Texas. They have four children, James and Rebecca, 10th grade students at Beaumont's French High School Mrs. Carol Erwin, Bridge City and Mrs. Joan Dinkins, Houston.

Mr. Leicht is active in Boy Scout work and is a member of the Knights of Columbus and St. Pius X Catholic Church.

**A. F. Gager**, formerly utility foreman in the Beaumont T&D-Substation, has been promoted to relay foreman.



**A. F. Gager**

Mr. Gager came to work in 1922 in the Beaumont T & D - Meter Department. He served in various meter classifications until made relayman first class in 1956. A year later he was promoted to utility foreman.

He is married to former Lucile Mary Clark of Beaumont. They have four children: Venus June Doga, Beaumont; Lynda Elizabeth Crabbe, Lake Charles; Jerry William Covington, Beaumont; and Don Orman Covington, Orange.

He is a past president of the Voth-Rosedale Community Council and chairman of the Voth-Rosedale water board. He is chairman of the Official Board of St. Lukes Methodist Church. He is a past member of the A.I.E.E. and is a licensed real estate broker and developer of Gager's Ridgewood Addition.

**D. N. Corgey**, formerly a relayman first class in System Services-Relay, has been promoted to communications foreman for Beaumont T&D - Relay and Communications.



**Don Corgey**

He was employed in System Engineering in 1954 as an engineering

helper. He had been a relayman first class since 1959.

He is married to the former Myrtle Hall of Burkeville, Texas. They are members of St. Lukes' Methodist Church. He is a graduate of South Park High School and attended Lamar Tech.

**William Haack** has been transferred to Beaumont T&D as a communications foreman, a position he has held in System Engineering since 1961. He was employed as a communications serviceman in 1958.



**Bill Haack**

He is married to the former Marilyn DeWeese of Kokomo, Ind., and they have a daughter, Alicia Ann, a sophomore at French High School. He is a member of the Beaumont Boat Club and St. John's Lutheran Church in Beaumont.

The following employees have been transferred to the Baton Rouge T&D:

**J. A. Sirman**, a right-of-way man in System Services since 1961, was employed in 1955 at Beaumont in System Engineering.



**Jack Sirman**

He is married to the former Audrey Whitaker of Luling, Texas, a former employee in the Beaumont Mail Room. They have three children, Debe, Mike and Patricia. He is active in Boy Scout work and is a member of the American Right-of-Way Association.

**W. B. Callahan**, formerly in System Engineering Services, is now a right-of-way man in the Baton Rouge T&D-Engineering. He was employed in 1956 at Beaumont as an engineering helper. He has been in Right-of-Way since 1962.



**Bert Callahan**

He is married to the former Barbara Ann Lavine of

Orange. They have three children, Ronald, Marci and Terri. He is a member of the Equalization Board of the Deweyville, Texas, Independent School District. He is a graduate of Deweyville High School and attended Port Arthur College.

**A. E. Whitaker**, a party chief for System Services at Baton Rouge, has been transferred to Baton Rouge T&D-Engineering in the same position.



**A. E. Whitaker**

He has been with our Company since 1953. He was employed as a rod and chainman at Beaumont and was made an engineering assistant in 1955. He has been working in Baton Rouge since 1957.

Mr. Whitaker is married to the former Mary Carriere of Port Arthur. They have four children, Genelle, Karen, Floyd and Sheila. He is a member of the Woodlawn High School Dad's Club, the Cedar Crest-Southmoor Civic Association, St. George's Catholic Church and is a member of the board of directors of the Louisiana Land Surveyors Association.

**William L. Rabe**, formerly a relayman first class at Beaumont, has been promoted to relay foreman and transferred to Baton Rouge.



**Bill Rabe**

He has been with our Company since 1944 when he was employed in Beaumont T&D. He worked in the Meter Department until made a relayman in System Engineering in 1949. He had been a relayman first class since 1952.

He is married to the former Ruby Jo Martin of Cass County, Texas. They have one son, William Preston. Mr. Rabe is a member of the South Park Masonic Lodge 1320.

*(Continued on next page)*



(Continued from page 7)

**A. N. Hall**, was transferred from Baton Rouge T&D-Substation to Relay and Communications as a relay foreman, a position he has held since 1960.



**A. N. Hall**

He joined our Company in 1946, after completing three years in the Army, in the Relay Section at Beaumont. He worked in various relay classifications until made a relayman first class in 1951.

He is married to the former Justine Cormouche of Washington, Louisiana. They have one daughter, Jo Elise. He is a member of the Wickland Civic Organization, and the Broadmore Methodist Church in Baton Rouge and Masonic Lodge 286 in Beaumont.

**William P. Tucker** has been moved from Baton Rouge Substation to T&D-Relay and Communications as a communications foreman, a position he has held since 1961.



**W. P. Tucker**

He joined our Company in 1946 as a substation operator at Baton Rouge. He moved into the communications field in 1947. He was made a communications serviceman first class in 1956 and had his classification changed to relayman first class in 1959. He promoted to utility foreman in 1959.

Mr. Tucker is married to the former Dalmar Hebert of Donaldsonville, Louisiana. They have three children: a married daughter, Carole; a son, William, Jr., now serving with the U. S. Air Force; and a son, Steven Lee, at home.

The Tuckers are members of St. Charles Baroemo Catholic Church in Baton Rouge. Mr. Tucker is a member of the Baton Rouge Skin Divers and teaches part-time in the Baton Rouge Vocational Technical School.

**J. R. Cornelius**, formerly a right-of-way man in System Services, Beaumont, has been transferred to Lake Charles T&D-Engineering as supervisor of survey and right-of-way.



**Jim Cornelius**

He was employed in 1951 as a rod and chainman at Beaumont. After serving in various survey classifications he was made a right-of-way man in 1957.

**A. O. Barrow** has been moved to Lake Charles as party chief.



**A. O. Barrow**

He joined our Company in 1950 at Beaumont as a rod and chainman. He worked his way up to become a senior draftsman in 1955. He has been a party chief since 1957.

Mr. Barrow and his wife, Hazel, have twin sons, Roy and Russell. He is a Mason and is a member of the Texas Surveyors Association and is a registered public surveyor of the state of Texas. He served with the U. S. Army in Europe during World War II.

**E. E. Cryer**, a right-of-way man since 1961, has also been assigned to Lake Charles T&D-Engineering. He has been with our Company since 1955 when he came to work in the survey crew at Beaumont. He had been in the Right-of-Way Section of System Services since 1958.



**Ed Cryer**

Mr. Cryer is married to the former Jackie Day of Leesville, Louisiana. They have two children, Gerald and Anna Kathleen.

He is a member of the Vidor Evening Optimist Club, secretary-treasury of the Right-of-Way Association, vice president and secretary-treasury of the Vidor Little League and an assistant manager in the Vidor Pony Colt League.

**H. J. Stelly** has been moved to the Lake Charles T&D as a right-of-way man. He had been a right-of-way man in Beaumont since 1965.



**Harry Stelly**

He was employed in 1959 as an engineering helper in the Beaumont survey crew. He was an engineering assistant in System Right-of-Way when named right-of-way man.

He was born at Grand Coteau, Louisiana, but was raised and educated at Beaumont.

**John D. Boykin** is another party chief who has been moved to Lake Charles.



**John Boykin**

He was employed in 1946 at Beaumont as a rod and chainman. He worked in various System Engineering positions until made a senior engineering assistant in 1953. He was promoted to party chief in 1956.

Mr. Boykin is married to the former Barbara Penry of Woodville, Texas. They have three children, Charles David, William Lee and Kitty. He is a past commander of American Legion Post #33 in Beaumont.

**H. G. Holland**, formerly a relayman first class at Lake Charles, has been promoted to relay foreman for the Lake Charles T&D-Relay.

Mr. Holland was employed at Lake Charles in 1936 as an ice delivery helper. He was moved to the Storeroom in 1937 and to the Meter Department in 1939. He was named meterman first class in 1945 and primary and special tester in 1949.

He was transferred to Lafayette in 1950 and was moved back to Lake Charles in 1957 when he was made a relayman first class.

He is married to the former Gwen Morris of Welsh, Louisiana.





**PRESENTS AWARD.** At the Texas Gulf Coast Press Association convention in Conroe last month, Jim Turner, public relations director, Beaumont, presented the first place award for the best news photograph of the year to Rigby Owen, publisher of the Conroe Courier. For years, our Company has sponsored the TGCPA News-Photo Contest. Newspapers from our Texas service area are represented at the annual meeting.

## Personnel Promotes Mrs. Fukes

**MRS. PAT FUKES**, formerly a personnel department clerk, in the System Personnel Department, Beaumont, has been named employment interviewer.



Mrs. Fukes

Mrs. Fukes has been an employee of the Personnel Department since 1957.

She is married to George D. Fukes, a salesman for Southwestern Drug Corp. Mrs. Fukes is a member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority and a past Beta Sigma Phi City Council president. She has held nearly all offices in the chapter and various offices on the council. She was named girl of the year in 1963-1964 by the 16 chapters that make up the Beaumont council. She is a member of the First

Christian Church of Beaumont where she is presently secretary of the Official Board.

Mrs. Fukes was raised in Bay City, Texas, where she attended grade school and was graduated from high school. She also attended Texas Christian University.

## Lee Henry Named Meter Foreman At Lake Charles

**R. L. HENRY**, formerly a primary and special tester in the Lake Charles Division, has been named to succeed the late Fred C. Watson, as meter foreman for the Lake Charles Division.



Lee Henry

Mr. Henry has been with our Company since 1922. He was employed at Beaumont as a night telephone operator. He has been in the Lake Charles Meter Department since 1926. He was made a meterman first class in 1941. He had been a primary and special tester since 1949.

He is married to the former Eugenia Simonson of Lake Charles and they have a married son, Robert, who lives in Sulphur, Louisiana.

## Clement Moved To Port Allen As Utility Foreman

**DARRELL G. CLEMENT**, formerly a serviceman first class at Denham Springs, has been transferred to Port Allen and promoted to utility foreman in the T&D-Line.



D. G. Clement

He was employed in 1946 as a helper in the Denham Springs T&D and had been a serviceman first class since 1951.

## Brady Transferred To System Communications

**DON T. BRADY**, formerly an engineer in System Services-Project,



Don Brady

Beaumont, has been transferred to the Communications Section of System Services.

He had been in the Project Section since 1964 when he was transferred from the Nava-sota Division. He was employed upon graduation from Lamar Tech at Beaumont in 1961.

He is married to the former Dorothy McKenzie of Fort Stockton, Texas. They have three children, John Tullie, Don Milam and Beth. They are members of the First Methodist Church of Beaumont.

He is a member of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers. He was graduated from the Clinton, Louisiana, High School, and attended Hinds, Miss., Junior College before he attended Lamar Tech.

## Grady Smith Made Supervisor of Plant Accounting

**GRADY M. SMITH**, formerly assistant plant accountant, System Treasury, Beaumont, has been promoted to supervisor of plant accounting. He had been assistant plant accountant since 1962.



Grady Smith

He has been with our Company since 1952 when he was employed as

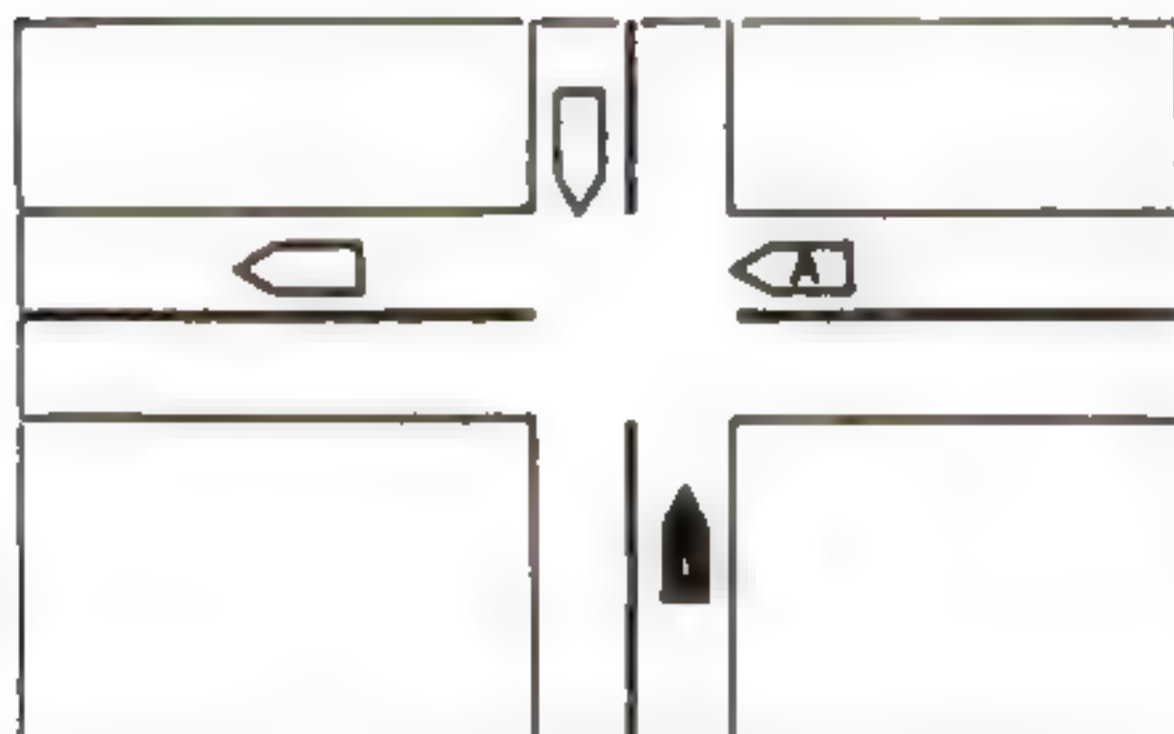
*(Continued on next page)*





What  
would you  
do in  
this  
driving  
situation  
?

by Tom Dobby



You plan to make a right turn at the intersection. In addition to signalling—

**YOU SHOULD:** (a) Position your car as close to the right curb as possible. (b) Get close to the curb, then swing slightly to the left as you make the turn. (c) Stay out away from the curb so car A will be sure to see that you're turning.

Reprinted by permission, from "Family Safety," quarterly publication of the National Safety Council.

(Answer on page 12)

(Continued from page 9)

a customer accounting clerk at Beaumont. He was made a senior accounting clerk in 1953. Late in 1953 he left for two years of service with the Army. Upon his return he was assigned to General Accounting and worked in IBM Accounting before being named assistant plant accountant in 1962.

A native of Daingerfield, Texas, he was graduated from Lamar Tech in 1953 with a BS in general business. He is married to the former Nelda Baxley of Beaumont. They have one daughter, Glenda. The Smiths are members of the Pineburr Baptist Church in Beaumont where he is choir director.

## Watkins Moved To Port Arthur As T&D Engineer

**J. D. WATKINS**, electrical maintenance supervisor at Neches Station since 1964, has been transferred to Port Arthur T & D as an engineer.



Doug Watkins

He is married to the former Wanda Meretre of Covington, Louisiana. They have two children, Jamie Ann and James D., Jr.

In Beaumont, he was president of Northwest Lions Club, a member of the board and a past president of the Live Wires Club and a member of the Official Board of Woodcrest Methodist Church. He is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and is a registered professional engineer in Texas.

- Over one-third of the children killed in dwelling fires are alone when the fire breaks out, according to National Fire Protection Association studies.

## Boudreaux Transferred To System Production

**VANN BOUDREAUX**, formerly an engineer in Engineering Services - Project Section, Beaumont, has been transferred to System Production and Planning.



Vann Boudreaux

A native of Erath, Louisiana, Mr. Boudreaux joined our Company in 1957 at Beaumont. He was transferred to Lake Charles in 1958. He had been in Project Section since 1962. He is a 1957 graduate of Louisiana State University with an electrical engineering degree.

He is married to the former Mary Means of Beaumont and they have four children, Lark, Claire, Susan and Coulter.

## Company to Host Area Students At Symposium

**OUR COMPANY WILL** again be host to 39 Texas service area teachers and outstanding science students at the sixth annual Texas Nuclear Science Symposium at the University of Texas on June 12-15.

The four-day event will be co-sponsored by the University and the Texas Atomic Energy Research Foundation, of which our Company is a member.

Approximately 500 students and teachers from all sections of Texas will attend the symposium which brings together students, teachers and outstanding scientists for discussions dealing with basic nuclear science and for educational guidance in this field.

The foundation is supporting a major research effort aimed at controlling nuclear fusion reactions for peaceful purposes, such as the generation of electric power.

The research is being done at the General Atomic laboratory in San Diego and at the University of Texas and Texas A&M University.



## Changes Made In Navasota Sales Staff

**TWO CHANGES** were recently made in the Navasota Division Sales Department.

**Virgil Foster**, formerly a residential sales representative senior at Madisonville, has been transferred to the Conroe District in the same capacity.



Virgil Foster

Mr. Foster came to work in 1953 as a rod and chainman in the Line Department at Navasota. He was made an engineering assistant in 1955 and was made a residential sales representative at Navasota in 1960. Later the same year, he was transferred to Madisonville in the same capacity.

A native of Hempstead, he attended public schools at Waller and was graduated from Blinn College at Brenham in 1958. He has also studied at Sam Houston State College.

He is married to the former Betty Sanford of Hockley, Texas, and they have four children, Linda, Diana, Julie and Lisa. They were members of the First Baptist Church in Madisonville where he was a deacon and a Sunday school teacher.

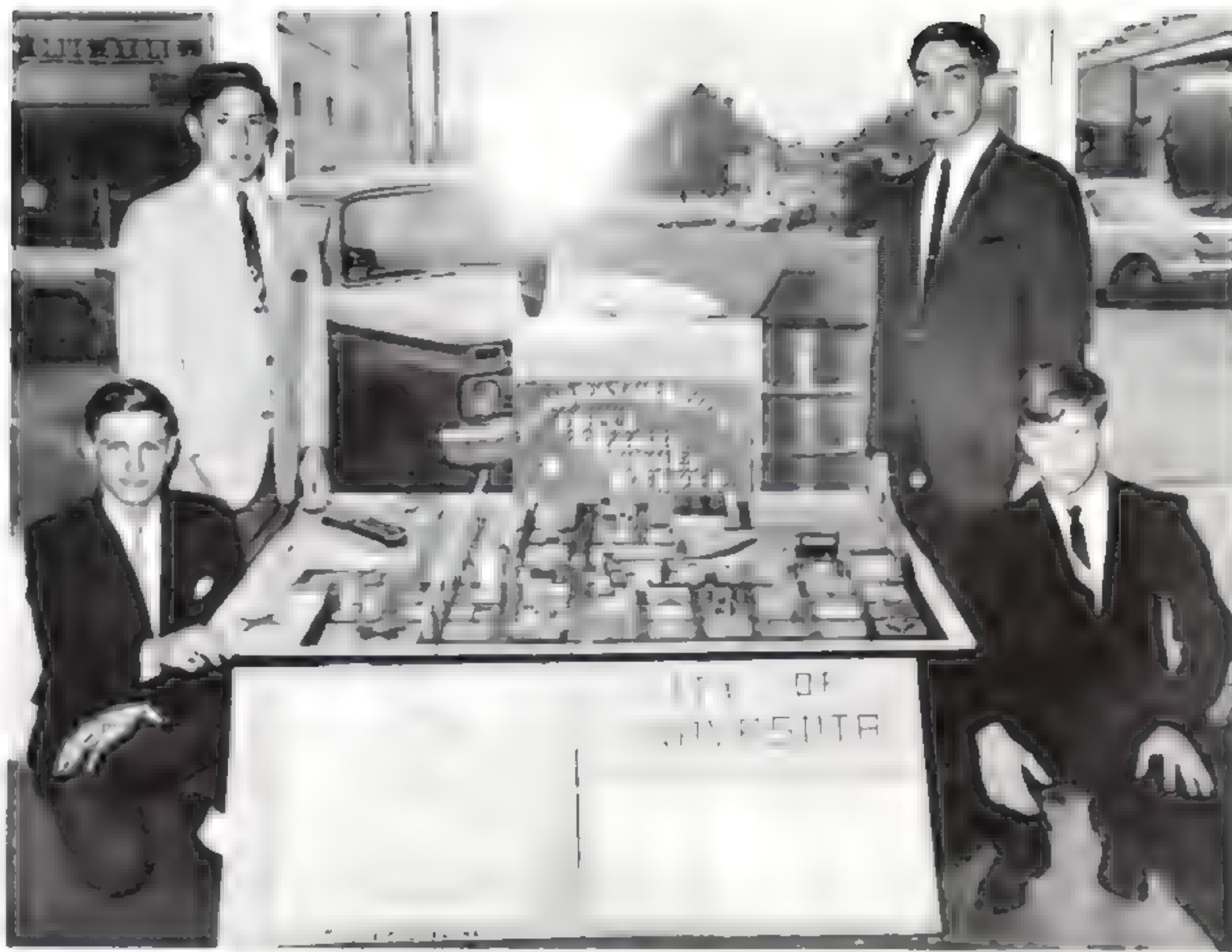
He was a member of the Madisonville Volunteer Fire Department, the Madisonville Lions Club and Masonic Lodge 744.

**Douglas Buck**, a 1965 graduate of Sam Houston State College, has been employed as a residential sales representative junior to replace Mr. Foster at Madisonville.



Doug Buck

A native of Washington, Texas, Mr. Buck was graduated from Brenham High School in 1961 and from Blinn College in 1963. He secur-



**NAVASOTA AND GSU "IN 1987."** Navasota leaders had a Houston engineering firm do a master plan of Navasota in the future, and four ambitious high school youngsters instantly saw possibilities for a project for Navasota High's 1966 Science Fair. Johnny Fultz, back left, Gregg Turner, front left, Jimmy Weaver, back right, and Steve Kramer, right front, took the street plan from the study and began last January to erect a model of the city—1987 style—complete with futuristic-looking buildings and even a monorail. Their finished project was made especially for the Science Fair but it has literally captured the imagination of the townfolk. They are caught here by the Plain Talks camera posing beside their creation while it was on display this month in a downtown show window. The youngsters even depicted an expanded GSU division headquarters by 1987, which is shown at the upper left of the model.

ed a bachelor of science degree in agriculture economics at Sam Houston.

Following graduation, he went on active duty with the U. S. Army.

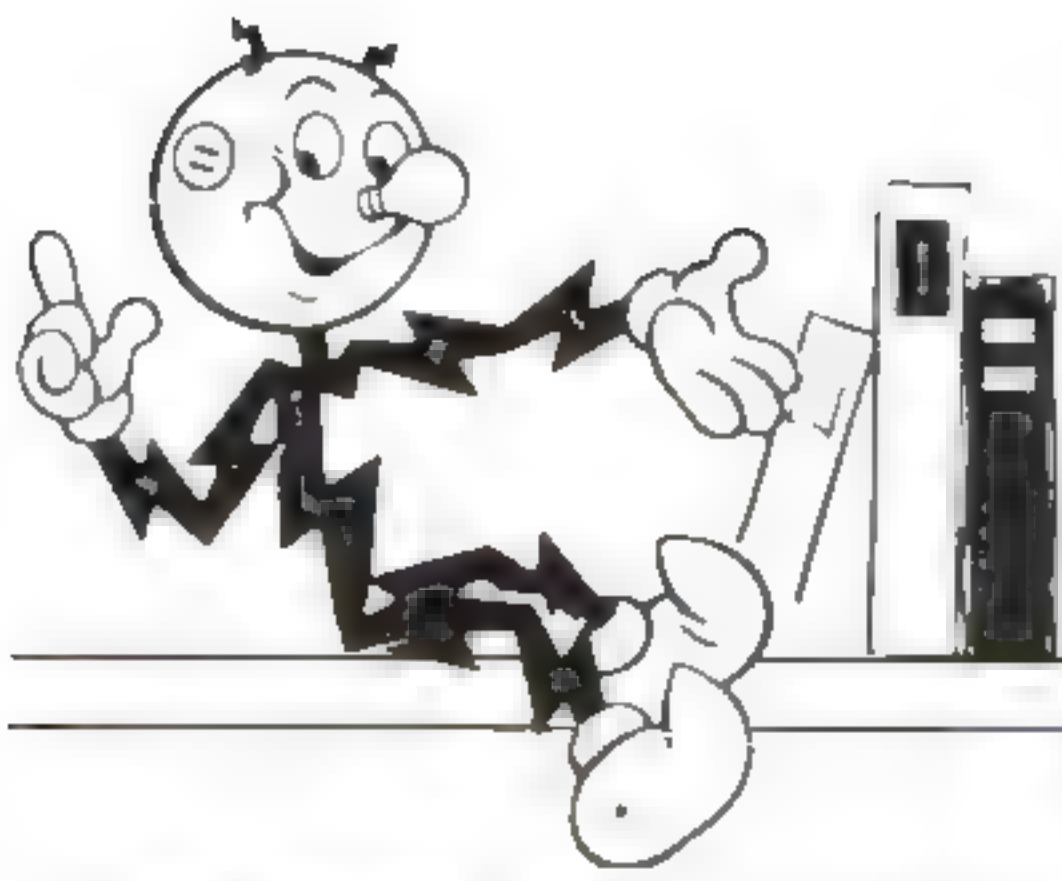
Edison Electric Institute predicts that in time there will be more and more electrically powered delivery trucks and even passenger automobiles.

The electric power companies are supporting accelerated research on a lightweight, rechargeable battery system capable of storing large amounts of power. The new system would provide a clean, quiet means of vehicle propulsion.



**RETIRES JUNE 1.** James Collins, janitor in Baton Rouge T&D, Building and Grounds, will retire June 1. He has been with our Company since December 27, 1928. He worked in the Gas Department until moved to T&D in 1953. He is a native of Jackson, Louisiana.





## On Our Library Shelves

**The Moran Story** by Edmond J. Moran (pamphlet). The colorful history of the Moran Organization, the world's largest, most modern tug fleet—an address to the American Newcomen Society.

**Westminster Choir College** by Lee H. Bristol, Jr. (pamphlet). An outgrowth of a choir founded by John Finley Williamson in Dayton, Ohio, in 1920, the College has won international renown for the excellence of its choirs and its Westminster Choir is one of the most celebrated in the world—an address to the American Newcomen Society.

**The Alabama State Hospitals and the Partlow State School and Hospital** by James Sidney Tarwater (pamphlet). Dramatic history of the Alabama State Hospital and the Partlow State School and Hospital—an address to the American Newcomen Society.

**Lenox School** by Robert L. Curry (pamphlet). The beginning, growth and noteworthy contributions of unique Lenox School, whose success has been built upon educational principles and abiding religious faith—an address to the American Newcomen Society.

**Basic Electronics Autotext A Programmed Course in Circuits** by Jack W. Friedman. A programmed "Autotext" based on the most modern principles of educational psychology. You will learn what electricity and electronics are, and the part these two play in modern life and technology.

**Handbook for Electronic Engineers and Technicians** by Harry E. Thomas. An invaluable storehouse of basic information covering all phases of commercial and military electronic hardware. It deals specifically with the details of electronic hardware drafting, sheet metal fabrication, and equipment testing, including radar and microwave measurements.

**Functional Drafting** by Don Fuller. The application of the concept of "simple yet sufficient" drafting room practices.

**Cutting Costs in Drafting and Design Operations** by Don Fuller. Material based on proceedings of an Industrial Education Institute Seminar which explores in depth subjects which must be quickly passed over during the seminar because of time limitations.

**Functional Drafting Practices and Techniques** by Don Fuller. Material based on proceedings of Industrial Education Institute seminar on streamlining drafting techniques.

**System Analysis for Business Management** by Stanford L. Optner. A powerful description and analytic tool for isolating and identifying business problems. Application of systems techniques is illustrated through explanatory chapters and case studies.

**My Years with General Motors** by Alfred P. Sloan, Jr. An account of the progress of General Motors—the world's largest private industrial enterprise. Its history covers the present century and many parts of the earth, wherever there is a road to travel.



J. A. Ellis

## John Ellis, 57, Baton Rouge, Dies

**JOHN A. ELLIS**, senior engineer in Baton Rouge T&D, died February 21 at his residence. He was 57.

Mr. Ellis joined our Company on September 2, 1933, as a watchman in Baton Rouge. He was named an engineer in 1940 and a senior engineer in 1950.

A native of St. Francisville, Louisiana, he received his electric engineering degree from Louisiana State University in 1931.

Mr. Ellis served with the U. S. Army from 1942 to 1946, being discharged with the rank of captain.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Alice Virginia Ellis, 3338 Myrtle Ave., Baton Rouge; five sons, J. Gregory, Stephen J., Richard M., Robert A. and James F.; three daughters, Mary Virginia, Susan Ann and Laurie Elizabeth; two sisters, Miss Mary Ellis and Mrs. Zula Farris, all of Baton Rouge.

He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, the Usher Society of Sacred Heart and was a member of the Louisiana Engineering Society.

---

(Answer to Safety Quiz  
page 10.)

(a) By getting as close to the curb as possible and staying there, you prevent another vehicle from being caught and squeezed between you and the curb as you make the turn.





R. W. Minvielle

## R. W. Minvielle, Baton Rouge, Dies Following Long Illness

**RAYMOND W. MINVIELLE**, retired shop foreman in the Baton Rouge Substation Department, died May 12 after a lengthy illness. He was 66.

Mr. Minvielle was employed on April 6, 1937, as an electrician helper at Baton Rouge. He was made a substation foreman in 1945 and a shop foreman in 1962.

A native of Hope Villa, Louisiana, he had been a resident of Baton Rouge for 29 years. He was a Navy veteran of World War I.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Helen Davis Minvielle, 6624 Government St., Baton Rouge, a son, William J., five sisters and one brother.

## David Kelly Dies Following Burns

**DAVID E. KELLY**, 28, a lineman in the Beaumont T&D, died April 27 in a Beaumont hospital from electrical burns received in an accident on April 26.



D. C. Johnson

He was burned while doing general line work in Vidor when a piece of equipment struck a hot line, causing a flash.

Mr. Kelly had been employed since 1957 when he came to work in Beaumont as a helper in T&D. He had been a lineman first class since 1964.

He was a member of Magnolia Assembly of God Church and had attended Southwestern Bible Institute in Waxahachie after being graduated from Edison High School in the same town. He was a native of Miami, Fla.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Margaret Ann Kelly, 7620 Wickersham, Beaumont; a son, David Earl, Jr., and a daughter, Cheryl Lynn, all of Beaumont.

## Death Claims

### D. C. Johnson Of Port Arthur

**DELMAR C. JOHNSON**, 60, substation operator in the Port Arthur Division, died April 23 in Mid-Jefferson County Hospital after an illness of two and a half months.

Mr. Johnson was an employee of our Company since February 9, 1944. He was employed in Port Arthur as a helper. He worked at the generator plant in Port Arthur until moved to the Substation Department in 1953.



S. E. Johnson

He was a native and a lifelong resident of Nederland, Texas.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Ethel Johnson, 615 South 12th Street, Nederland; a daughter, Mrs. Linda Balser of Houston; four sisters and a brother; one grandson; and his mother, Mrs. Nellie Budd of Beaumont.

## S. E. Johnson, Baton Rouge, Dies in Hospital

**SIMON E. JOHNSON**, an employee in the Government Street coffee shop, Baton Rouge, died April 20 in a Baton Rouge hospital. He was 58.

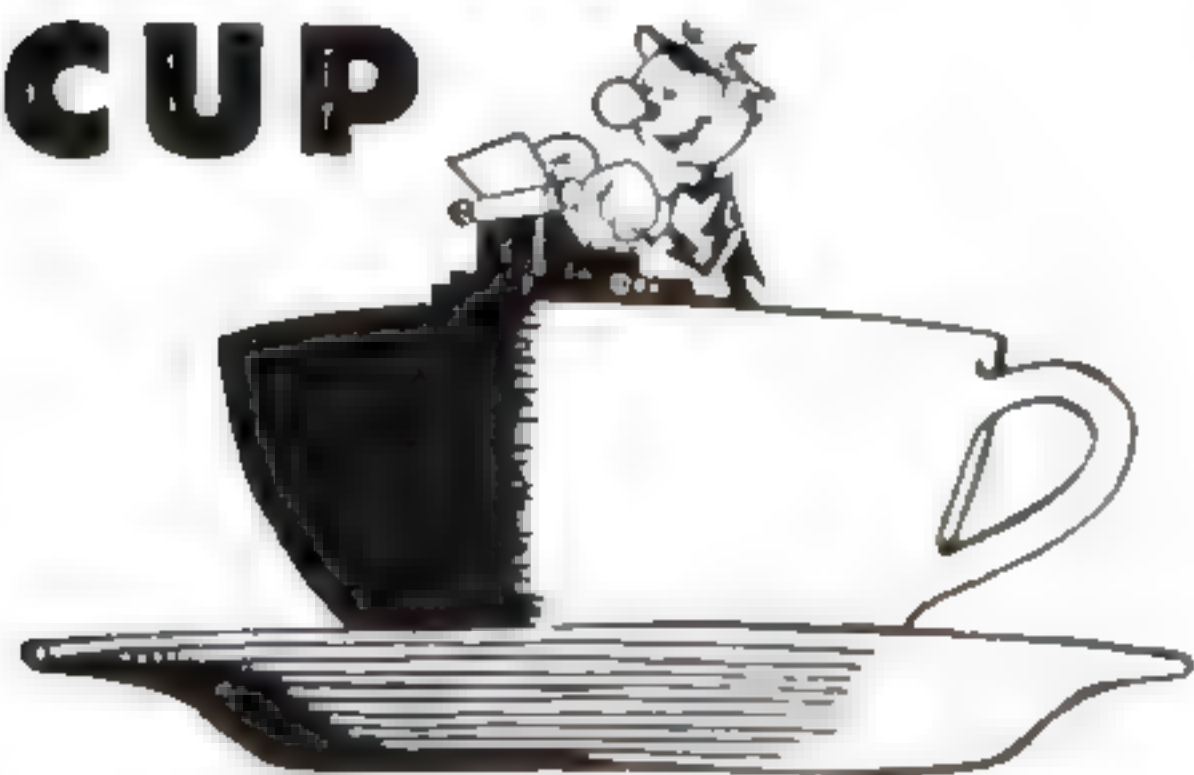
He came to work in 1937 at Baton Rouge. He was employed in the Gas Department until transferred to the Baton Rouge garage in 1943. He was transferred to Baton Rouge Building and Grounds in 1951.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Velma Johnson, 713 N. 16th St., Baton Rouge; a son, Thurman Collins, San Francisco; two daughters, Mrs. Azelnie Holmes, Norco, and Mrs. Alfreda Louis, Baton Rouge; and 12 grandchildren.

He was a member of the board of deacons of Nazarene Baptist Church in Baton Rouge.



# COFFEE CUP



**G**EORGE WILLIFORD, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Williford, he's



George Williford

a turbine operator at Neches Station, Beaumont, was the featured soloist for the 76th annual Mai-Fest at Brenham, Texas, on May 13-14.

George attended South Park High School, Lamar Tech, and Centenary College in Shreveport where he received his B.A. degree in psychology. He is now working on his master's degree at Texas A&M University.



**THE LIFE OF THE RETIRED.** Clement Schwab, retired Louisiana Station employee, and his wife, Gertrude, are off vacationing in Florida and Mr. Schwab says the sunshine, beaches and fishing are great.

He teaches in the Somerville, Texas, High School and is the youth director at the First Methodist Church at Brenham.

**J**UANITA GIRDLER spent a lot of time bowling in preparation for the National Women's Bowling Tournament in New Orleans on May 13 and 14.

Glenda and Bill Hinkle toured Arkansas, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi while on their honeymoon. A family reunion in Arkansas, Watauga Lake and Lookout Mountain in Tennessee and a day's fishing in Mississippi were highlights of the trip.

—By Glenda Hinkle

## BATON ROUGE

**L**OUISIANA STATION employees were sorry to lose one of their fellow workers, Ann Gayle Stiegler, departmental clerk. Ann Gayle had been with the Company for two years.

A new employee, Kathy Adlong, has been welcomed to fill Ann Gayle's place. Mrs. Adlong is from Houston, Texas. She and her husband, Kenneth, have a daughter, Kimberly, 11-months-old.

—By Joyce Rachal

## PORT ARTHUR

**J**O ANNE LANDRY has had a double seige of illnesses. She left work with a "strep" throat and while doctoring that, the mumps took over, both sides at that.

Frank Jones is back after a three weeks vacation. He and his wife toured the northern California coast, visited friends and played golf enroute.

Ex-GSU line foreman, A. C. Morgan, dropped in recently to visit the ole gang. Retired employee, T. M. McNeil and his dog, Tippy, drove from Liberty, Texas, to see us. "Mac" was ill for several months, but looked fine to his friends.

Carl Beaumont's son, Mike, will receive his industrial engineering degree May 28th and will go to work for Boeing Aircraft in Seattle, Washington, June 13. I don't believe it will be too long before Carl and Dorothy journey to Seattle for not only is Mike moving up there, but his wife and

you guessed it, the only grandchild.

Craig Coplen, son of line foreman J. O. Coplen suffered a broken leg in an automobile-motorcycle accident recently. Craig had enlisted in the Marines and was to have reported in one week.

—By Loraine Dunham

## NAVASOTA

Janice Cowen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Cowen, he's a truckdriver in the Navasota Division Storeroom, was named Queen of the Youth Fair Rodeo last month at Anderson, Texas.



Mr. and Mrs. Bonner G. Horn, meter reader, Beaumont Accounting, a son, Steven Glenn, March 2.

Mr. and Mrs. James C. Daigle, serviceman first class, Lafayette, a son, Kevin Charles, March 26.

Mr. and Mrs. Cary S. Parker, Baton Rouge Gas, a son, Derrick Andra, March 26.

Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester R. Hohes, general clerk, General Accounting, Beaumont, on a daughter, Laura Kay, April 7.



**OFF TO NEW ORLEANS.** Cynthia Casey, departmental clerk, Lafayette T & D, was honored with a farewell party as she left the Company to make her home in New Orleans where her husband, David, is employed by Shell Oil Co. With Cynthia is J. W. Lamm, district superintendent, Lafayette.



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Arabie, an apprentice Lafayette T&D-Line, on a son, Shannon Joseph, April 5.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry J. Bottley, Orange, on a son, Kevin Jerome, April 19.

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Clayton, apprentice, Port Arthur T&D-Line, on a son, Stephen Arnold, April 22.

## Notice

Live Wires Club  
Will Hold Its  
Annual Picnic At  
Club Site June 11



Leon B. Millet, a helper in the Denham Springs T&D-Line, and Vivian Miller were wed on April 1.

James M. White, a helper in the Orange T&D-Line, and Julia Ann Moore were wed on April 2.

Doris Lynne Henry, local office clerk, Cleveland, Texas, was wed to Frederick Leon Caughman on April 8.

Glenda H. Milner, billing clerk, Beaumont, was wed to William Glenn Hinkle on April 7.

Betty A. Wilson, departmental clerk, Estimate and Budget Forecasting, Beaumont, was wed to Donald M. Du-hon on April 22.

## Thrift Plan

**T**HE TRUSTEE of the employee thrift plan purchased the following stock during April covering employee deductions and Company contributions through March:

- 4,749 shares of common stock at a total cost of \$127,722.84 or an average cost per share of \$26.895.
- 111 shares of \$4.40 preferred stock at a total cost of \$9,804.49 or an average cost per share of \$88.329.

These costs included brokerage and commission fees.

The trustee also deposited \$20,873.62 with the savings department of the First Security National Bank.

# SERVICE AWARDS

## TWENTY YEARS



Marvin Cox  
Distribution  
Port Arthur



K. J. George  
Distribution  
Lake Charles



R. J. Heinen  
Distribution  
Lake Charles



Jack Killough  
Distribution  
Lake Charles

## TEN YEARS



Ross Reed  
Distribution  
Beaumont



J. I. Vice  
Distribution  
Port Arthur



L. R. Fatheree  
Distribution  
Beaumont



T. G. Franklin  
Treasury  
Beaumont



P. O. Savant, Jr.  
Distribution  
Beaumont



L. L. Tynes  
System Production  
Beaumont





**TOP TOURNAMENT TEAM.** This group of Jennings Gulf Staters bowled themselves into first place team honors during the annual employees bowling tournament, April 30 and May 1, at the Derrick Bowling lanes in Jennings. Making up the team are R. L. "Buddy" and Freida Ringuet, D. W. "Goody" Goodwin and Harold "Flip" Richard. Buddy was general chairman of this year's event.

**SINGLES WINNER.** Mrs. Jane Fruge, wife of Emory Fruge of Lake Charles, proved it's not a man's world in bowling by winning first place in the singles event with a 626 series.

## Jennings Bowlers Win Tournament

**T**HE DERRICK LANES in Jennings, Louisiana, were the site of GSU's Fifth Annual Bowling Tournament. The tournament, held April 30 and May 1, attracted over 70 bowlers from throughout our service area, according to Buddy Ringuet, tournament chairman. Participating were GSU employees, wives, husbands and relatives. Highlight of the event was the dine and dance held following Saturday night's bowling. Don's Drive Inn of Jennings served barbecued chicken with all the trimmings, and music was provided by the juke box and Joe Oliver and his squeezebox.

A group of Jennings' bowlers walked away with first place team honors. The team was made up of R. L. "Buddy" Ringuet, Freida Ringuet, D. W. "Goody" Goodwin and Harold "Flip" Richard.

Nathan Knox and Ken Londers of Beaumont took first place in the doubles event with a 1,295 series.

Mrs. Jane Fruge, wife of Emory Fruge, Lake Charles, won first place in the singles event with a 626 series while J. I. Vice of Port Arthur wrapped up the all-events series with a total of 1,866. Joe Oliver of Lafayette rolled his way into first place in the all-events scratch with a total of 1,655.



**A DOUBLE THREAT.** Joe Oliver of Lafayette proved he was just as good a bowler as he was a squeeze box player by taking first place in the all-events scratch with a total of 1,655.



**BOWLING TOURNAMENT.** Some 70 Gulf Staters had a good time of it as they gathered in Jennings, Louisiana, for the annual employees bowling tournament.



# Cantankerous Is The Word For My Co-Worker

**I**NDEED, MY CO-WORKER is as quarrelsome as they come. He is inhuman; heartless, soulless. But what makes him most incompatible is his habit of gouging at my ego.

I had been on my first job less than six months when I complained about low wages. "Let me clue you, kid," my co-worker said. "You're lucky they're not paying you what you're really worth!" I protested, reminding my protagonist that I worked twice as hard and got half as much pay as that pencil-pusher over there. "Granted," my co-worker said. "You're okay, as flunkies go. As for that pencil-pusher—well, months ago, he got tired of flunkying and started reading at least one book a week that hepped him up on what this company's business is all about. He's really on his way now. But you can catch him, if—"

So I enrolled in evening classes. I read everything I could get my hands on that was related to my employer's business. It paid off. I caught the pencil-pusher, then passed him. "Apparently, you're not one to take even small successes silently," my co-worker reprimanded. "A word of caution, young man: When your work speaks for itself, don't interrupt!"

Though somewhat piqued by his implication, I took my co-worker's advice and concentrated on leaving that flunky classification farther and farther behind. Then, one day, I came up with an idea that paid off to the tune of \$500. I was elated—until the company president handed me the award check and said that my winning idea would save the company some \$10,000 annually. Later, I bemoaned the fact that I got only \$500 for an idea that was worth thousands. As usual, my co-worker was unsympathetic. "You can't see the dollars ahead with pennies over your eyes," he said, pointedly. "No firm heaps more harm on its employees than the firm that fails to reap a healthy profit. The more profit the more expansion, new jobs and chances for further advancement."

I condescended. After all, I was far out in front of the pencil-pusher by now. In fact, I was first in line for promotion to an important supervisory post. At least, I thought I was. Imagine



my disappointment when the pencil-pusher got the job! I decided to quit—walk out, just like that. But my co-worker wouldn't have it that way. He caught me at the water cooler, and said, "Consider that glass of water." I looked and saw a tiny speck of dust on the glass, pointed it out to him, then asked him if that was what he meant. "Exactly," he replied. "Your hand holds a glass—a delicate, lovely piece of man's handiwork. The glass is filled with sparkling, beautiful, crystal-clear water. Yet, when I asked you to consider it, you saw nothing remarkable except that speck of dust. It's the same when you consider other people. Neither this company nor any other could stay in business very long if supervisory positions were filled by employees who can't look over a minor defect and discover a man's real worth beyond."

I have never won in an argument with my co-worker. Yet, I know that to detach myself from him is to let myself hopelessly down because, above all, he has an unerring sense of direction and I could not go very far without him. So I stuck with him as he forced me over that disappointment and many subsequent setbacks, taking potshots at my personality until I became angry enough to try again.

I call him my co-worker. But, cantankerous as he is, you probably know and respect him—as I do—for what he really is: a force called ambition.



AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

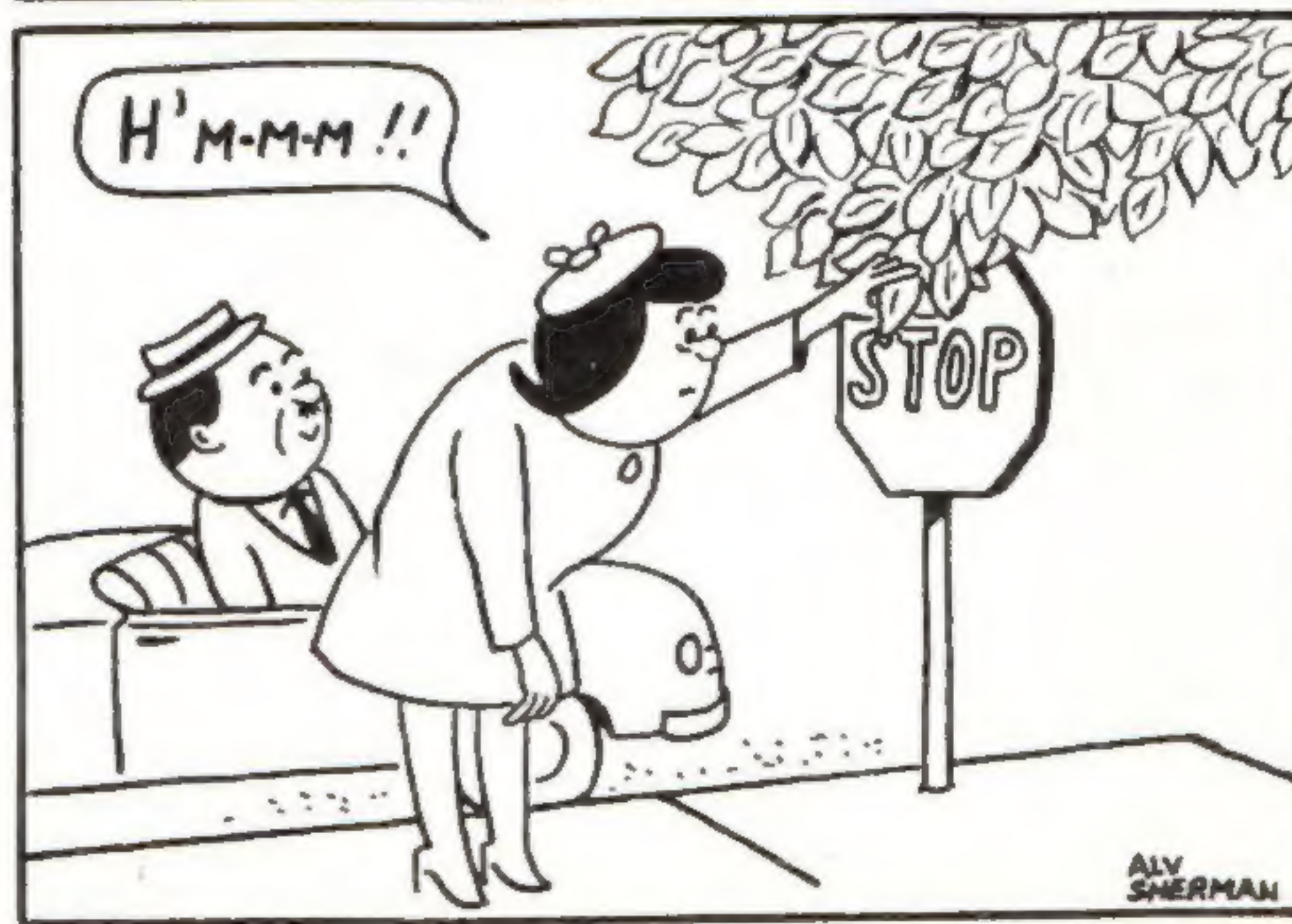
# Plain Talks

P. O. BOX 2951  
BEAUMONT TEXAS

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

Bulk Rate  
U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
Beaumont, Texas  
Permit No. 11

## THE DRIVE-ABOUTS



COPYRIGHT © 1966 BY ALV SHERMAN

ALV SHERMAN